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Religious and Charitable Endowments

Proposals for the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

* 65. *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state for how long the proposals of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board for the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act have been under the consideration of the Government and when they propose to undertake legislation on the subject?

A.—A comprehensive amendment Bill was drafted by the President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, and sent to Government in November 1927. The amendments were examined and a draft Bill was prepared towards the end of 1930. Some of the provisions therein were embodied in the amending Acts passed as Act V of 1929, Act IV of 1930 and Act XI of 1931. The other provisions of the Bill contemplate—

(1) provincializing the Hindu Religious Endowments Board and the audit staff,

(2) splitting the Hindu Religious Endowments Board into an executive board and one or two judicial commissioners,

(3) placing excepted temples on a par with ordinary temples in regard to the control over their budgets.

It is not possible to provincialize the Hindu Religious Endowments Board owing to the present financial position of the Government. Power has, however, been taken under Act XI of 1931 to enable the Hindu Religious Endowments Board and District Committees to recover their contributions through the Collector as arrears of land revenue, which, it is hoped, will facilitate collections. The other two points are under consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" May I know with reference to (*a*), when the Government expect to come to conclusion ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" The question is now placed before the Local Advisory Committee which is to meet again to-morrow."

List of temple committees, active and defunct.

* 66. *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) which of the temple committees are functioning now;

(*b*) which committees have been wound up; and

(*c*) whether the arrears of contributions due from temples are being collected through the revenue authorities, and if so, in which districts ?

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A.—(*a*) The temple committees in the Tanjore, South Arcot and Tinnevelly districts and the one constituted for the Madura Sri Minakshi Devasthanam and its allied institutions are functioning now.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 35. These committees have not been 'wound up' but have ceased to function on the expiry of their term.

(*c*) The information has been called for.

Wireless Installation

Proposals regarding broadcasting in this province.

* 67 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Madras branch of the European Association has submitted to the Government any scheme for broadcasting in this Province; and

(*b*) whether the Madras Government propose to take up broadcasting service?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) The Government have not so far proposed to do so.

Mr. F. E. JAMES:—"In view of the fact that there is a proposal under consideration by the Madras Corporation for the extension of the broadcasting service considerably beyond the limits of the municipal area, will the Government consider the desirability of resuming control?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES:—"The Government will consider the hon. Member's suggestion."

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Irrigation

Progress of the High Level Channel scheme.

*68 *Q.*—Mr. K. SINGAM AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage the work of the High Level Channel scheme is at present and how far progress has been made;

(*b*) the extent of irrigation that has been provided in the High Level Channel scheme and whether the Government contemplate to make additional provision for a further extent of land to be irrigated and if so, to what extent and at what cost;

(*c*) whether the construction of the bed regulator is dependent on and as a preliminary to the construction of the High Level Channel;

(*d*) whether the Special division in charge of the bed regulator is carrying on the work of the High Level Channel scheme; if so, how and if not, why not; and